

## **Enrollment and Placement of Children of Military Families Residing on Military Bases Located in the District of Columbia**

### **1. General Statement of Purpose**

DCPS recognizes that school-age children residing on military bases located within the boundaries of the District of Columbia face obstacles to educational success, such as frequent moves and the deployment of one or more of their parents. In order to help overcome these obstacles, and to accommodate the Council of the District of Columbia's recent passage of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Establishment Act of 2012, DCPS issues this Chancellor's Directive ("Directive") to allow such children to enroll, at any point during the school year, in the school of their choice, pending classroom and/or program availability.

### **2. Statement of Applicability**

a) This Directive applies to:

- i) Eligible Students - Students eligible to enroll in grades kindergarten through 12 residing with active-duty parent(s) or guardian(s) within the grounds of the Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling ("JBAB"), Fort Lesley J. McNair ("Fort McNair"), and the Marine Barracks Washington DC ("Barracks"). Eligible Students also includes students aged 18 and older with remaining DCPS eligibility who reside with active duty parent(s) or guardian(s) within the grounds of the JBAB, Fort McNair, and Barracks.

b) This Directive does not apply to:

- i) Children of active duty military families living in civilian housing in the District of Columbia (i.e. those families not living at JBAB, Fort McNair or Barracks).
- ii) Children of veterans or individuals otherwise discharged from service in the uniformed forces of the United States of America.
- iii) All children eligible for enrollment in DCPS pre-school or pre-kindergarten programs pursuant to 5-E DCMR § 2004.1 and 2004.2.

### **3. Legal Authority**

This Directive obtains its legal authority under 5-E DCMR § 2106.6, which authorizes the Chancellor to grant any discretionary transfer and set the duration of the approval of the transfer when the Chancellor determines that the transfer would be in the best interests of the student, and that the transfer would promote the overall interests of the school system. Consistent with the Chancellor's duty under D.C. Code § 38-174(c) to operate DCPS in an efficient and organized manner, the Chancellor will delegate authority to the Deputy Chief of the Youth Engagement Division to approve discretionary transfer requests made pursuant to this Directive.



#### 4. Placement and Enrollment Process for Eligible Students Living on Military Bases

- a) All students eligible for placement and enrollment assistance under this Directive are able to begin the process described in this section at any point during the school or calendar year.
- b) When seeking to enroll an Eligible Student (or, in the case of an adult student, when seeking his or her own enrollment) in a school outside the established attendance zone boundaries for that student, a request must be submitted to the DCPS Student Placement Office. For assistance, the requestor should contact the Student Placement Office by email at [student.placement@dc.gov](mailto:student.placement@dc.gov) or by phone at (202) 939-2004.
- c) Parents/guardians and adult students are encouraged, when indicating a preferred school of choice, to take into account the goal of maintaining the eligible student's educational programming he or she received in his or her previous school. This may include consideration of the availability of honors classes, International Baccalaureate and/or Advanced Placement classes, vocational and technical courses, gifted and talented programs, specialized instruction services received through an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and English as a second language programs.
- d) If the first school of choice of the parent/guardian or adult student is unavailable due to limitations on school or program availability, **the DCPS Student Placement Office** will work with the parent/guardian or adult student to enroll the eligible student in another appropriate school. DCPS will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the first choice of the requestor in all circumstances.
- e) Nothing in this Directive shall supersede the student attendance requirements for children of compulsory school age as detailed in D.C. Code § 38-201. All compulsory school age children are required to enroll in and attend a school during the period of each year when the public schools of the District of Columbia are in session. An Eligible Student may be required to attend his or her in-boundary school pending the finalization of a special placement as detailed in this directive.
- f) Nothing in this Directive shall infringe upon the rights of Eligible Students to attend their neighborhood schools in accordance with established attendance zone boundaries unless the student's IEP necessitates a different placement than can be provided at the neighborhood school.

#### 5. Other Considerations for Eligible Students Living on Military Bases

- a) If a parent/guardian or adult student elects a designated application-only school as his or her first choice for the Eligible Student, the student will be able to apply to that school at any point during the school or calendar year. Nothing in this Directive shall prevent designated application-only schools from evaluating Eligible Students on the merits of the application, and Eligible Students must be deemed accepted by the designated application-only school in order to attend. The designated application-only schools will not take into account the timing of the application submission from Eligible Students when considering admission.
- b) Any Eligible Student subsequently enrolled at a school outside of his or her attendance zone boundary is eligible to remain at that school until the student desires to attend a different school or ages out/graduates.
- c) Any Eligible Student who ages out of or graduates from a school, which has been designated as a feeder school by the Chancellor, shall be automatically eligible to attend the next-level school in the designated feeder pattern.



- d) Should any Eligible Student wish to change schools at any point during the school or calendar year, or should any eligible student aging out of or graduating from a feeder pattern school not wish to attend the next-level school in the designated feeder pattern, the parent/guardian or adult student may follow the placement procedure set forth in Section 4(b) of this Directive. Barring exceptional circumstances, an Eligible Student may only receive one placement via this Directive per school year, and no more than three total placements during the Eligible Student's time with DCPS.

## **6. Compliance with Other Applicable Laws**

Nothing in this Directive shall be interpreted to supersede a measure adopted by the Chancellor necessary to comply with Federal requirements related to any law applicable to DCPS, including, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1201, *et. seq.*, Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6301, *et.seq.*, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400, *et seq.*